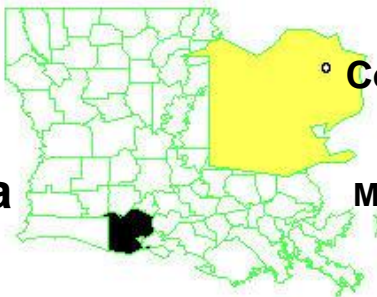


**Gulf Coast Vacuum
Services
Vermilion Parish,
Abbeville, Louisiana**



**EPA Region 6
Congressional District 07**

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Galveston-Houston Yard
Last Updated: March 2012**

No new updates as of: July 2012

**EPA ID# LAD980750137
Site ID: 0600592**

Background

The Gulf Coast Vacuum Services (GCVS) Site is located on Junius Road about three miles southwest of Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana. The site covers about 12.8 acres and is bounded to the north and west by pastureland and to the east and south by the D.L. Mud Superfund Site. LeBoeuf Canal, which runs along the eastern and southern boundaries of the site, drains the southern portion of the site.

The GCVS Site was a vacuum truck and oilfield drilling mud plant operation from approximately 1969 to 1984. Lafayette Highway Equipment Sales and Services, Inc., owned and operated a 25.562-acre parcel that included the GCVS Site and surrounding property from September 1969 to May 1975. Gulf Coast Pre-Mix Mud Services, Inc., owned and operated the parcel until January 1979 when it merged with Gulf Coast Pre-Mix Trucking, Inc., and was renamed as G.H. Drilling Fluid, Inc. In August 1979, the facility was renamed again to G.H. Fluid Services. G.H. Fluid Services owned and operated the site until October 1980 when it conveyed 12.78 acres to GCVS. The remaining portion of the parcel is now known as the D.L. Mud Site. GCVS owned and operated the site until 1984 when it declared bankruptcy. The property was used as a trucking terminal and disposal facility for materials and wastes generated from oil and gas exploration and production. Vacuum trucks were rinsed out in several on-site pits including the West Pit and Washout Pit. Various tanks held raw and waste material. Unpermitted disposal of contaminated material and waste also occurred on the site surface soils.



A citizen's complaint led to site identification by EPA on June 27, 1980. Preliminary sampling results revealed the presence of compounds characteristic of crude oil, salt water, and drilling mud oil in the site media. In addition, a layer of oil emulsion, averaging 1 inch in thickness, was observed in the West Pit.

The main contaminants that posed an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health or the environment were organic compounds such as benzene and carcinogenic polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), and metals such as arsenic and barium.

The primary land uses near the site are agricultural and residential. Agricultural land is predominantly used as pasture land for grazing cattle and for crop production (e.g., rice, sugarcane, and soybean). Approximately 10 residences are located within 0.5 mile of the site on Junius Road and Route 335, with the nearest resident on the southeast site boundary. These residents are outside the corporate limits of Abbeville and use groundwater for drinking water and irrigation.

There were three removal actions on the site. The first removal action was because the EPA observed leakage of oily rainwater from the West Pit and the Washout Pit. The EPA conducted a second removal action because of overflowing rainwater in the West Pit and the secondary containment levee that was constructed during the first removal action was close to overflowing.

The EPA conducted the third removal action, because rainwater in the West Pit was overflowing, rainwater in the Washout Pit was in danger of overflowing, oily rainwater was leaking from the Washout Pit, and a floating layer of contaminated organic material was present in the pits.

The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on September 30, 1992 for Operable Units (OUs) 1 and 2. The Amended ROD was signed on May 5, 1995. The completion of OU2 activities eliminated the threat of overflow of accumulated rainwater contaminated by the sludge pits, thereby reducing the direct contact threat to nearby residents and the threat to the local drinking water supplies. The remedy selected in the ROD for OU-1 consisted of the on-site incineration, on-site stabilization, disposal, and construction of a clay cover over the ash of the organic and inorganic contaminated pit sludge and construction of a clay cover over inorganic-contaminated site soil and sediment. On May 5, 1995, the ROD for OU-1 was amended to include some additional items. Cleanup has returned approximately 8-acres to unlimited use. The remainder of the site will have limitations on its use.

Current Status

- The site is currently in the operation and maintenance phase of the Superfund process. Groundwater monitoring is being conducted annually and the remedial action performance is being assessed every five years;
- After Hurricanes Rita & Katrina, the site was inspected and two ground water wells were sampled in October 2005, to assess potential impacts or storm damage. The site's remedy was not impacted by the hurricanes;
- The 3rd Five-Year Review to document remedial action performance was completed on September 16, 2008. The protectiveness determination was deferred until further information is obtained.
- A Five-Year Review Addendum completed in August 2009 determined the site remedy to be protective of human health and the environment in the short-term.
- The PRP Group has undertaken additional steps to upgrade the site's safety statement to long-term protectiveness. A re-evaluation of the site's conditions was completed in spring 2010.
- The Annual 2010 Remedial Groundwater Monitoring Report for the site was submitted by the PRP's contractor in July 2011. No significant issues that could negatively impact the remedy's short-term protectiveness statement were reported.
- A technical impracticability (TI) waiver may be produced to address elevated arsenic and barium concentrations in an onsite monitoring well that may never achieve federal drinking water standards. Work is being conducted the PRP Group in consideration of providing analytical data needed to possibly produce the TI waiver in fiscal year 2012.



Benefits

The completion of OU2 activities eliminated the threat of overflow of accumulated rainwater contaminated by the sludge pits, thereby reducing the direct contact threat to nearby residents and the threat to the local drinking water supplies. Cleanup has returned approximately 8-acres to unlimited use. The remainder of the site will have limitations on its use.

National Priority Listing (NPL) History

Proposed Date: June 24, 1988
Final Date: March 31, 1989

Location: Approximately 2.5 miles southwest of Abbeville, Vermilion Parish
1.5 miles west of the Vermilion River
Adjacent to the south is the D.L. Mud, Inc. Superfund site

Population: Approximately 2,600 people live within 3 miles of the site.

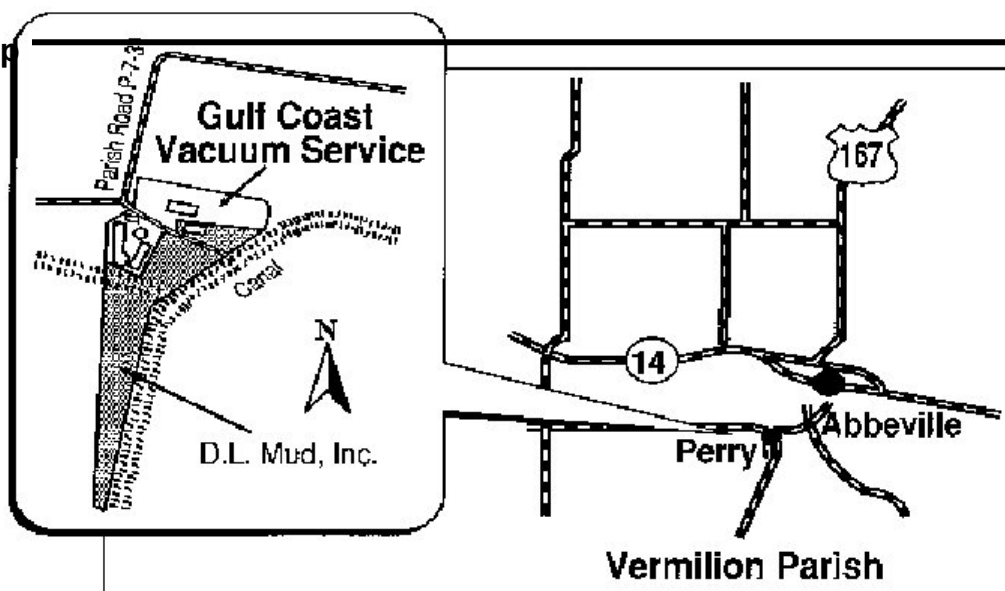
Setting: Approximately 2,600 people obtain drinking water and about 1,000 acres are irrigated by private wells within three miles of the site. The site is surrounded by agricultural and residential land.

Photos: [Site](#)

Hydrology: The site is located above the shallow sand of Abbeville Unit of the Upper Chicot aquifer. The Abbeville Unit is the primary source of drinking water. Surface water drainage is to the LeBoeuf Canal or to the north drainage, which flows to the Coulee Galleque.

Principal Pollutants: The sludge and shallow aquifer contaminants include benzene, toluene, mercury, lead, chromium, arsenic, barium, and various organic compounds. The contaminants in the site soil included arsenic and barium.

Site Map



Health Considerations:

Cleanup of the principal pollutants removed direct human contact and upstream risks, as well as a potential ground water threat and contamination to the Vermilion River.

Record of Decision

RODs Signed on September 30, 1992

Operable Units 1 & 2

Amended ROD Signed on May, 5, 1995

Operable Unit 1

The remedy for Operable Unit 1 included on-site biological treatment of organic-contaminated sludge and soil, as well as stabilization of inorganic soils.

The remedy for Operable Unit 2, the interim action to the ground water, included source control, such as dewatering and consolidation and ground water monitoring.

Site Contacts

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